



Thursday, June 8th, 2006

Judge Stout Named California's Juvenile Court Judge of the Year, and Appointed to the Statewide Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care

By Nancy Moxley
Court Executive Officer,
Inyo County Superior Court

The Superior Court of California
County of Inyo
168 North Edwards
Independence, CA 93526
Tel 760-878-0218
Fax 760-878-0433
301 West Line Street
Bishop, CA 93514
Tel 760-872-4971
Fax 760-872-1067
www.inyocourt.ca.gov

Inyo County Superior Court Judge Dean Stout was recently named the 2006 Wilmont Sweeney Juvenile Court Judge of the Year by the Juvenile Court Judges of California. The award was presented by the Honorable Michael Nash, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court of Los Angeles at the annual Juvenile Court Judges Juvenile Law Institute held April 27, 2006 in Los Angeles. Judge Stout was recognized for his commitment to improving outcomes for children and families in the juvenile court, and his leadership in statewide efforts to implement best practices.

Judge Stout was also recently appointed by the Honorable Ronald M. George, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, to serve on the statewide "Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care." In announcing the appointment, the Chief Justice mentioned that the "members of the commission have been selected to reflect the diversity and depth of experience necessary to develop and implement innovative policy solutions to improve conditions for our state's most vulnerable children and youth." The Commission is chaired by the Honorable Carlos R. Moreno, Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court, and includes members of the California Legislature among other distinguished individuals committed to improving our foster care system. Judge Stout has been selected to chair one of four Commission subcommittees.

Upon his appointment, Judge Stout commented that "I am honored to serve on this Commission which is comprised of some exceptionally dedicated and talented individuals who will undoubtedly bring creative ideas and novel approaches to solving the problems facing our children in foster care. In California today, we have well in excess of 80,000 children in foster care. We must remember that we are talking about children who have been removed from their homes and declared dependents of the court because of abuse or neglect. The courts and other agencies involved in our dependency system must increase our accountability, and improve our efforts to achieve three unequivocal goals for our children in foster care: safety, permanency in a timely manner, and well-being."